

Juvenile Justice Improvement Committee
Judicial Conference of Indiana

Minutes
March 1, 2002

The Juvenile Justice Improvement Committee of the Judicial Conference of Indiana met at the Indiana Judicial Center on Friday, March 1, 2002 from 12:00 Noon until 3:00 p.m.

1. Members present. Mary Beth Bonaventura, W. Timothy Crowley, Mary R. Harper, Lynn Murray, James W. Payne, Daniel L. Pflum, Julian L. Ridlen, R. Paulette Stagg, Frank Sullivan and Viola J. Taliaferro, Chair Pro Tem.
2. Minutes approved. The minutes for the meeting on February 1, 2002 were approved.
3. Guests present. Mr. John Hamilton, Secretary, FSSA and Angela Sears Spittal, Deputy Secretary, FSSA were also present.
4. Staff present. Jeffrey Bercovitz provided the committee with staff assistance.
5. Judgments against juveniles. Committee members discussed procedures for placement of civil judgments against juveniles on the judgment docket. If the judgment against the juvenile was a felony crime delinquent act it would not be confidential. A misdemeanor crime delinquent act or a status delinquent act would be confidential. If the judgment is against the parents for CHINS services, the clerk may place only the judgment on the docket. If parents owe monies, they are not entitled to confidentiality. The committee members recommended the Juvenile Benchbook Committee draft a separate form listing orders for costs and judgments.
6. Presentation by John Hamilton.
 - a. Mr. John Hamilton, Secretary, FSSA introduced himself to members of the committee. He distributed "Key Biennium Priorities" newsletter from December 2001. He said his agency wants to "redirect funding of 500 beds in residential and treatment institutions serving children and youth in probationary settings" according to Priority One of the newsletter. Judge Taliaferro said the needs of the children should come first and noted a paucity of institutions in her area. Magistrate Stagg stated there is too much distinction between CHINS and Delinquents in FSSA's budget and she spends too much time finding alternatives for delinquents. The speedy resolution of CHINS cases is forcing too many delinquent cases. Judge Payne said there is a need to implement "best practices" for juveniles in larger counties. Judge Crowley said he is unable to get children with severe mental health problems into state facilities. Mr. Hamilton stated he could fund a separate group and give them a specific agenda to creatively reduce 500 beds from probation, including FSSA and judicial personnel.
 - b. Mr. Hamilton distributed a chart of the claims paid through the Medicaid Rehabilitation Option (MRO). He reported monies for MRO are distributed through the community mental health centers.

7. Confidentiality of Paternity and Termination proceedings. Committee members agreed Termination of Parental Rights and Paternity proceedings should be kept confidential.
8. Recent legislation.
 - a. The members of the committee agreed to Email suggestions for the Juvenile Code Study Commission to Mr. Bercovitz in two weeks – the effective date of SB 459 if it is passed.
 - b. Mr. Bercovitz distributed SB 426 and HB 1298 to committee members. He reported HB 1232, concerning protective orders passed the House and Senate in different versions and may go to conference committee.
9. Juvenile judges with detention centers. Judge Payne suggested an early-bird session on detention centers for judges with detention centers at the Juvenile Judges Annual Meeting in June to discuss notification of release from detention for sex offenders, employment of persons to run the detention center, special education problems, and length of stay issues. Committee members agreed this session should be open to all judges since they may have questions about detention.
10. Next meeting dates. The committee members agreed to hold the next meetings of the committee on the following Fridays: May 3, 2002; June 7, 2002; and November 1, 2002 from 12:00 noon – 3:00 p.m. Members can bring lunch to these meetings. They also agreed to meet Wednesday, September 11, 2002, from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon in conjunction with the judicial conference in Ft. Wayne. They also agreed to cancel their November meeting if an ISBA meeting on juvenile justice occurs on November 21.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey Bercovitz, Director
Juvenile and Family Law